follow a composite IL-76, AN-32 & Dornier aircraft formation. Both formations were to fly together with the TU aircraft formatioxn trailing 32 seconds behind the IL-76 formation. However, as informed by Navy, due to constraints of maneuvering such large aircraft in formation, the Naval aircraft formation which took off from its launch base in Arakonam (in Tamil Nadu), arrived at the orbit point of departure (over Jhajjar in Haryana) a fraction of a minute early. In order to offset the effect of leaving early, the TU formation reduced speed to the minimum acceptable limit. But this itself was not found adequate and therefore the TU formation correctly gained height to create vertical separation between the two formations. Though the two formations were in close proximity of each other, both were well aware of the air situation and at no stage was there a danger of a mid-air collision. Suitable assistance was also provided to the two formations on the Radio-Telephone (RT) by Flypast control to control the situation.

Formation flypasts involve movement of a large number of aircraft in close proximity and is always conducted in good visibility. Rules for formation flypasts are well laid out. As aircraft in formation fly past though traversing a similar course observe height separation, the risk of accidents particularly due to relative speed between them, is extremely low. To further ensure safety, visual contact is always maintained while keeping vertical/lateral separation. Measures are taken to abort the fly pas; if visual contact cannot be maintained or if there is likelihood of compromise of flight safety. However, as a precautionary measure, the Captain of the TU-142 lead aircraft has been thoroughly briefed.

Since flight safety was not compromised and adeqeate action to ensure safety had been taken, a full fledged inquiry was not considered necessary. However, investigations revealed that since the TU-142 formation was a fraction of a minute early to set out from its departure point, it had to gain height to create vertical separation between it and the IL-76 formation. Necessary fine-tuning would be donein the composition and planning of flypasts in future to cater for such contingencies.

Missing Defence Personnel

*86. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3128 given in R?p a Sabha on 4th September, 1996 and state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to solve the humanitarian problem of 54 missing Indian defence personnel believed to be in Pakistan custody;

(b) if these POWs are considered as dead, have their families been given benefits that accrue to families of defence personnel who die in action; and

(c) if they are considered alive, are their families being given their salaries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The matter has been taken up on several occasions with Pakistan at various levels including that of Prime Minister. During his visit to Pakistan from 20-21 February, 1999, Prime Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the two sides appointed a two-member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of the missing personnel; The matter was also raised in the official-level discussions held with Pakistan in March, 1999. The Pakistani side stated that there were no Indian POWs in their custody, but agreed to re-examine the matter afresh. Government would continue to pursue this matter with Pakistan.

(b) and (c) All the missing defence personnel of 1965 and 1971 wars, after a lapse of 7 years, have been presumed to be killed and their families are given liberalised pensionary awards, which incliude liberalised family pension, gratuity, children allowance and education allowance for children.

Foreign Donations for Christian Voluntary Organisations

*87. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Christian missionaries and Christian voluntary organisations which received money from foreign sources from 1990-91 till date and the amount thereof; and

(b) the names of the donor countries and agencies from whom the amounts have been received?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The names of the voluntary organisations, including religious ones, which have been in receipt of foreign contribution, during the period from 1991-92 to 1997-98, under the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation)